REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending. Claim 1 was amended to correct typos i.e. change "select" to "selected" and to clarify that modified bytes corresponding to pre-determined fields are computed and stored in a second memory as shown for example in Fig. 5 and as set forth in Claim 5. Also Claims 12 and 15 were amended to insert the word "and" as indicated. Claim 15 was amended to clarify that a first buffer is used to store received packets, and that a second buffer is used to store a calculated value for fields from the received packet. No new matter was added.

By the Office Action, Claims 1-3, 5-8, and 11-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as anticipated by US Patent No. 6,006,330 to Soni ("Soni"). The Examiner has however indicated that Claims 4, 9 and 10 would be allowable if rewritten with the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims.

In view of the Remarks and amendments herein, the Applicant respectfully request abeyance in rewriting Claims 4, 9 and 10 pending reconsideration of Claims 1-3, 5-8 and 11-18.

The 35 U.S.C. 101 Rejection

As set forth in Claim 1, the Applicants' method in one embodiment comprises: storing a received data packet in a first memory; computing modified bytes corresponding to pre-determined fields in the packet and storing the modified bytes in a second memory; and multiplexing selected unmodified bytes from the first memory with modified bytes in the second memory to generate a modified package.

Similarly, in another embodiment in Claim 12, the Applicants' method comprises: storing a packet in a first memory; generating modified values corresponding to pre-determined fields in the packet; storing the modified fields in a second memory; and selecting unmodified fields (values) from the first memory, and modified fields (values) from the second memory for output.

Likewise, in Claim 5, the Applicants' device comprises a first memory for storing incoming packets; a processor for computing modified fields of the incoming packets; a second memory coupled to the first memory that stores the modified fields; and a multiplexer, coupled to the first and second memory, for multiplexing fields from the first and second memory for output.

And in Claim 15, the Applicants' device comprises means for buffering a received packet; means for calculating a different value for at least one field in the received packet and storing the calculated different value in a second memory; and means for selecting fields from either the buffer (received packet) or the different value from the second memory, for output.

Compared to the Applicants' claimed method and device, Soni does not teach a method or device wherein a received packet is stored in a first memory; modified bytes corresponding predetermined fields of the received packet are computed and stored in a second memory; and wherein the unmodified bytes corresponding to the packet stored in the first memory and modified bytes in said second memory are multiplexed to generate a modified packet.

Rather, Soni teaches a method and device for modifying a data frame in network wherein a security unit (1) in the network, on determining that a frame is to not be forwarded, will modify the frame in a manner such that it cannot be read when it leaves the security unit. On the frame returning to the security unit, the frame is reconstruct from original data stored in the security unit (see the Abstract). Thus in Soni a memory (11) is shown for modifying and/or storing a frame, and there is no teaching or suggestion of a multiplexer that selects unmodified bytes from a first memory, and modified bytes from a second memory to generate a modified packet.

Thus regarding the Examiner's citing Soni as purporting to teach the Applicant's claimed method and device thereby rending the claims unpatentable under 35 USC 102(b), it is respectfully submitted that on the contrary because Soni does not teach the Applicants' claimed method or device, the claims are patentable. Although Soni for example at col. 8, lines 9-21 teaches the use of a multiplexer to the output the frame into the network i.e. either the original frame, or a modified frame, or a reconstructed frame, nowhere in Soni is a teaching or suggestion of the Applicants' claimed method or device wherein incoming packets are stored in a first; a processor coupled to said first memory computing modified bytes corresponding to pre-determined fields of said packet; a second memory coupled to said first memory, wherein the modified bytes are stored in said second memory; and multiplexer coupled to said first memory and said second memory.

Thus as will be appreciated by the Examiner, since Soni does not teach each and every element of the Applicants' Claims 1, 5, 12 and 15, the claims are patentable. Similarly, regarding dependent Claims 2-3, 6-8, 11, 13-14 and 16-18 that incorporate all the elements of their independent claims, these claims are also patentable.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of all the claims, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the application. If a telephone conference will expedite allowance, the Examiner is kindly is requested to telephone the Douglas M. Gilbert at (408) 447-4447.

Respectfully submitted,

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